

Blue Jays perform well in Regional Track

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams had an outstanding day in what was considered to be the toughest Class 3A Regional Track and Field Meet in the state on Friday in Phillipsburg.

The Norton girls qualified eight and two Blue Jay boys qualified to compete in the State Meet this Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Hesston won the girls championship with 69 points, followed by Hutch-Trinity, 66; Marion, 63; Marysville, 60; Beloit, 60; Southeast of Saline, 58; Norton, 39; Minneapolis, 28; Phillipsburg, 26; Halstead, 20; Sacred Heart of Salina, 18; Lyons, 17; Ellsworth, 15; Hays-Thomas More Prep Marian, 10; Riley County, 8; Hoisington, 1.

The boys champion was Beloit with 108 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 94; Hesston, 65; Salina Sacred Heart, 57; Marion, 46; Hays Thomas More Prep, 37; Southeast of Saline, 30; Minneapolis, 27; Norton, 24; Halstead, 24; Riley County, 14; Hoisington, 14; Hutch-Trinity 9; Marysville, 6; Lyons, 2; Ellsworth, 1.

"We had an awesome day of competition," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. "It was cooler and cloudy but our athletes competed well."

"We will take eight girls to state and two boys."

"We suffered some tough losses, which can happen in the regional meet but we also put up some performances that led to multiple individual personal records and two individual regional championships. Austin Hager vaulted 14' to win and defend his regional championship from last year and our girls 4 x 800 meter relay team of Sierra Griffith, Katelyn Engelbert, Casey Ambrosier and Bailey Ambrosier bettered their previous personal best by over 22 seconds to win that event.

"Our athletes did exactly what

we had asked them to do. This track meet was about being tough, competing tough, putting the weather conditions aside and leaving it all on the competition venue. Our athletes did just those things.

"Our young athletes learned a lot about competing at a championship level and our athletes displayed sportsmanship and class."

"We are proud of the effort with which our athletes competed, we are happy about the personal records that came our way, we are very excited about our athletes who qualified and earned opportunities to compete at the state meet and look forward to all that the coming week will bring!"

Norton girls who qualified for the state meet are: Bailey Ambrosier, pole vault and 4 x 800 meter relay; Katelyn Engelbert, 800 meter run and 4 x 800 meter relay; Cristine Nelson, shot put; Kenzie Esslinger, pole vault; Sierra Griffith, 4 x 800 meter relay; Casey Ambrosier, 4 x 800 meter relay.

The Norton boys who qualified are Austin Hager in the pole vault and Deon Lyle in the high jump.

The top four finishers in each event qualified for the Kansas State High School Track and Field Meet in Wichita this weekend.

GIRLS

The Lady Jays' 4 x 800 meter relay team of junior Sierra Griffith, senior Katelyn Engelbert, sophomore Casey Ambrosier and senior Bailey Ambrosier was timed in a personal record time of 10:09.55 in winning that event.

The same foursome just missed qualifying in the 4 x 400 meter relay where they were timed in 4:19.37 to place fifth.

Bailey Ambrosier and junior Kenzie Esslinger tied for third in the pole vault with a clearance of 9'6". Alicia Maloney of Marion was the champion with a 10'6" vault and Madison Hewitt, Beloit, placed second with a clearance of 10'.



Norton senior Bailey Ambrosier leans as she crosses the finish line to win the gold medal for her 4 x 800 meter relay team in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg. A Marysville anchor runner is shown also attempting to lean across the finish line. Running with Bailey were Sierra Griffith, Katelyn Engelbert and Casey Ambrosier.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Blue Jay junior Deon Lyle glides over the bar to place second in the high jump in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg. Deon's clearance of 6'4" tied the eventual winner who had fewer misses at that height.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton senior Cristine Nelson heaved the shot a personal record distance of 34'1.25" to place third and punch her ticket

to the big show.

Engelbert qualified in her second event with a second place in the 800 meter run with a person-

al best clocking of 2:26.05. She was edged for the gold medal by Allison Stutterheim of Southeast of Saline, who has Norton area relatives. Stutterheim was timed in 2:25.78.

Lady Jay senior Darcy Bainter, who has been a steady distance race performer for four years, missed the state meet with a sixth place finish in the 3200 meter run with a time of 12:43.90.

Freshman Baylee Miller will have future chances to qualify for the state meet in the high jump. Her clearance of 4'10" placed fifth, just missing a trip to Wichita. She would have qualified with a 5' jump.

Performances by Norton girls which did not place were: sophomore Lexi Voss, 30'7", 10th, shot put; Lexi Voss, 89'9", 10th, discus; freshman Caitlyn Cox, 68'8", 19th, javelin; sophomore Peyton Renner, 30'2", 18th; Casey Ambrosier, 30'1.5", 19th, triple jump; freshman Miah Melvin, 8'6", 7th, pole vault; Sierra Griffith, 50.06, 10th, 300 meter hurdles; Caitlyn Cox, personal best 27.67, seventh, 200 meter dash; sophomore Raenee Patterson, personal best 13:39.23, 12th, 3200 meter run; 4 x 100 meter relay team of Baylee Miller, Kenzie Esslinger, Peyton Renner and Caitlyn Cox, 53.71, 8th.

BOYS

Senior Austin Hager was Norton's only boys gold medal winner when he cleared 14' to win the pole vault and successfully defend his regional title from last season.

Junior Deon Lyle won a silver medal with a second place finish in the high jump with a personal best height of 6'4".

Lyle cleared the same height as Ryan Mayorga of Thomas More Prep but had more misses at that height.

Norton had some fifth places that just fell short of qualifying for the big show.

Senior Marc Miller finished fifth in the 800 meter run with a near personal record of 2:03.80.

Logan, Northern Valley athletes qualify for State Track

By DICK BOYD

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Five athletes from Northern Valley and five from Logan qualified for the Kansas Track and Field Meet this weekend in Wichita during the Class 1A Regional Meet in Hays on Friday.

The Logan girls placed fifth and Northern Valley girls tied for 16th. The Northern Valley boys finished seventh and the Logan boys were 19th.

The girls champion was Wheatland-Grinnell with 69 points, followed by Quinter, 52; Golden Plains, 44; Hoxie, 44; Logan, 42; Weskan, 34; Triplains, 30; St. Francis, 29; Otis-Bison, 27; Sharon Springs, 27; Natoma, 26; Tribune, 24; Dighton, 22; Cheylin, 21; Thunder Ridge, 21; Northern Valley, 17; Victoria, 17; Stockton, 4; Western Plains, 4; La Crosse, 2; Palco, 1.

Champion of the boys teams was La Crosse with 85 points, followed by Sharon Springs, 62; St. Francis, 50; Hoxie, 49; Stockton, 47; Otis-Bison, 32; Northern Valley, 29; Wheatland-Grinnell, 28; Natoma, 25; Victoria, 25; Weskan, 25; Brew-

ster, 23; Dighton, 16; Quinter, 16; Golden Plains, 14; Thunder Ridge, 10; Palco 7; Tribune, 7; Logan, 4; Cheylin, 2; Triplains, 2.

The top four individuals or relays in each event qualified for the State Meet this Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Northern Valley girls

Sophomore Brooke Baird was the only gold medal winner for the Lady Huskies. She won the pole vault with a clearance of 9'6", which was a foot higher than last year's regional fifth place.

Brooke did just miss qualifying in two other events, however. She was fifth in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 50.82 and sixth in the 100 meter hurdles in 17.29.

Junior Kortney Cunningham missed returning to the state meet with a fifth and two sixth places. She finished fifth in the javelin with a throw of 111'6", sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 32'6.25" and sixth in the high jump with a clearance of 5'.

"Brooke Baird had a big win

in the pole vault against some very good competition," said Northern Valley head coach Chuck Fessenden.

"She also had a personal best in the 300 meter hurdles but it was not good enough to get her to state.

"I was very disappointed to see Kortney not make it to state in any of her events. She was close to her season best in all of her events but she came up just a little short of qualifying in all of them.

"Shayna Vincent did not place in the discus but had a personal record of 91'10". In the javelin, Sarah Baird threw 96'1" for a new personal record."

Northern Valley boys

The Husky boys had two silver medal winners. Junior Phillip Bryant placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20'4" and junior Clint Cole finished second in the pole vault with a clearance of 12'.

Placing third and punching his ticket to the big show was senior Hunter Chandler with a 5'10" height in the high jump.

Senior Jordan Baird was Northern Valley's other state

qualifier with a fourth place in the 200 meter dash in 23.68. Baird just missed a trip to the state in the 100 meter dash where he was fifth in 12.08.

The Huskies' 4 x 100 meter relay team of Bryant, Chandler, junior Gabriel Anderson and Baird placed sixth with a clocking of 46.5.

"We were happy to qualify four boys for the state meet," said coach Fessenden.

"Phillip Bryant came up big with a personal record in the long jump to finish second. In the pole vault, Clint Cole matched his season's best to pick up another second place finish for us.

"I was really happy to see Jordan make it in the 200 meter dash to cap off his senior year. Hunter continued to battle a sore plant foot but was still able to qualify in the high jump.

"Even though he did not place in that event, Clint Cole had a personal record of 45.46 in the 300 meter hurdles. Carson Wallace also ran very well in the 400 meter dash and had a personal record of 55.87.

Logan Girls

Senior sprinter Michaela Girard had a great day in the regional tournament, winning two gold medals and running on a third place relay team.

She was timed in 13.29 to win the 100 meter dash and in 27.22 to hit the finish line first in the 200 meter dash.

Sophomore Christen Greving placed third in the shot put with a heave of 36'5.5". She was also a member of the 4 x 100 meter relay team along with Girard, freshman Karlee Braun and freshman Kayla Hofaker which finished third in a time of 52.80.

Hofaker also qualified for the big show with a third place finish in the long jump with a leap of 16'2.75". She also qualified for state with a fourth place in the 400 meter dash with a clocking of 1:04.09.

Performances by Logan girls which did not place were: Kayla Hofaker, 29.30, 200 meter dash; freshman Crystal Bliss, 14.63, 100 meter dash; freshman Tristen McClurg, no height, pole vault; Karlee Braun, no height, pole vault.

Logan boys

The only state qualifier for

He missed qualifying by less than two seconds!

Two Norton relays also placed fifth.

Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, sophomore Jordan Dole, senior Tanner Furbush and sophomore Gavin Lively was timed in 45.34. They were edged for fourth place and a spot in the state meet by a team from Beloit that was timed in 45.32!

Norton's other fifth place relay team consisted of Marc Miller, senior Trever Lewis, freshman Cruz Leon and freshman Tyus Henson who ran the 4 x 800 meter relay. They were timed in 8:54.22.

Performances by Norton boys that did not place were: freshman Jacob Green, 42'5.75", 10th; junior Breven Sondergaard, personal best 39'5", 13th, shot put; junior Mickey Hahn, 120'1", 12th; junior Conor Cox, no distance, discus; senior Travis Cressler, 139'5", 11th, javelin; Trever Lewis, 19'4", 9th, long jump; Tanner Furbush, 39'1.75", 11th, triple jump; freshman Koby McEwen, 5'8", 7th, high jump; junior Kobbie Unterseher, 11', 7th, pole vault; sophomore Tevin Brown, 11.95, 9th; Gavin Lively, 12.13, 11th, 100 meter dash; Jordan Dole, 24.40, 9th; Gavin Lively, 24.59, 11th, 200 meter dash; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Kobbie Unterseher, junior Christian Boser, Jordan Dole and Trever Lewis, 8th, 3:39.99.

Next action

Those athletes who qualified for the Kansas State Track and Field Meet in Wichita will compete on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31.

With all six enrollment classes represented, it will be the largest high school track and field meet in the nation!

It will begin 7:45 a.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and will run continuously into the evening each day.

Western Kansas Liberty League results for Northern Valley athletes

Western Kansas Liberty League Results for Northern Valley tracksters.

Boys - 111 pts. - 2nd

High Jump - Chandler - 6'0" - 1st

Seals - 5'6" - 4th

Cole - 5'2" - 6th

Long Jump - Bryant - 19' 4.25" - 3rd

Shot Put - Vincent - 42' 7.5" - 5th

Javelin - A. Baird - 140' 2" - 3rd

Vincent - 134' 5" - 4th

Triple Jump - Wallace - 36' 6.5" - 5th

100 - J. Baird - 11.56 - 2nd

200 - J. Baird - 23.53 - 1st

Anderson - 24.09 - 3rd

Bryant - 24.40 - 4th

400 - Wallace - 58.55 - 5th

800 - B. Cox - 2:25.28 - 5th

1600 - B. Cox - 5:11.24 - 3rd

110 Hurdles - Cole - 19.31 - 4th

300 Hurdles - Cole - 45.98 - 2nd

400 Relay - Bryant, Chandler, Anderson, J. Baird - 46.42 - 1st

1600 Relay - Anderson, Towery, B. Cox, Wallace - 3:59.75 - 2nd

3200 Relay - Towery, Wellman, Kasson, Wallace - 10:07.07 - 2nd

Comments

We dug ourselves a hole early in the meet when Clint no heighted in the pole vault and Jordan scratched his three jumps in the long jump. We fought back with three places in the high jump. Jarell Seals stepped up with a personal record of 5'6" for fourth place.

Ian Vincent had a personal best in the shot put and along with Ame Baird threw well in the

javelin. We got big points out of the 200 and our relays. Gabriel Anderson had a great day. He had a personal record and third place finish in the 200. He ran on our 400 meter relay team and led off the 1600 meter relay with a very good leg of 56.5. Clint Cole had a strong finish for second place in the 300 hurdles. Brant Cox did a good job of picking up some points in the distance races.

Girls - 51 pts. - 5th

100 Hurdles - B. Baird - 16.95 - 3rd

300 Hurdles - B. Baird - 50.92 - 4th

400 Relay - Lowry, Vincent, B. Baird, S. Baird - 58.69 - 6th

Shot Put - Vincent 30'4.5" - 4th

Javelin - Cunningham - 93'2" - 3rd

S. Baird - 92'9" - 4th

Vincent - 88'11" - 5th

High Jump - Cunningham - 4'10" - 2nd

Pole Vault - B. Baird - 9'6" - 1st

Long Jump - Cunningham - 15'4.75" - 3rd

Triple Jump - Cunningham -

32' 6.75" - 5th

Comments

Brooke Baird had a nice day with some good times in the hurdles and a first place finish in the pole vault. Kortney Cunningham had her second best jumps of the season in the long jump and triple jump. Kortney, Sarah Baird, and Shayna Vincent all had good throws in the javelin.